

REMARKS

Claims 1-43 were presented for examination. The Examiner allowed claims 1-16 and 29-43. Claims 17-21 and 25-28 were rejected as anticipated by United States Patent Publication No. US 2003/0101343 to Eaton et al. ("Eaton"). Claims 22-24 were rejected as obvious over Eaton in view of United States Patent Publication No. US 2003/0074580 to Knouse et al. ("Knouse"). Applicant thanks the Examiner for the careful consideration given to the application, the indication of allowable subject matter, and for the courtesy extended during the telephone conference with attorneys for Applicant held on January 7, 2009.

In accord with the comments made during the telephone conference, Applicants hereby amend claims 1, 3, 4, 14, 29, 31, 32 and 42 to further clarify those allowable claims and amends claims 17, 23 and 26 in accord with the Examiner's comments. No new matter is added. upon entry of the present amendment claim 1-43 are presented for examination.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 17-21 and 25-28 were rejected as anticipated by Eaton. Claim 17 is independent. Claims 18-21 and 25-28 depend from claim 17 and incorporate all the limitations of that base claim.

Claim 17 is hereby amended to conform to the subject matter of allowed claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 17, and the claims which depend from claim 17, are allowable over the prior art of record for the same reasons as claim 1.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 22-24 were rejected as obvious over Eaton in view of Knouse. Claims 22-24 depend from claim 17 and incorporate the patentable subject matter of that independent claim. The arguments made above with respect to Eaton apply with equal force here and reiterated as if set forth in full.

Claim 17, from which claims 22-24 depend, is hereby amended to conform to the subject matter of allowed claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 22-24, which depend from and incorporate all the patentable subject matter of, claim 17, are allowable over the prior art of record for the same reasons as claim 1.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that each of the Examiner's rejections has been adequately addressed and all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration, withdrawal of all grounds of rejection, and allowance of all of the pending claims.

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone conference with Applicant's attorney would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact the Applicant's attorney at the telephone number identified below.

Respectfully submitted,

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